What is Basinwide Water Quality Planning?

Basinwide water quality planning is a watershed-based approach to restoring and protecting the quality of North Carolina's surface waters. Basinwide water quality plans are prepared by the NC Division of Water Quality (DWQ) for each of the 17 major river basins in the state (Figure 2 and Table 2). Preparation of a basinwide water quality plan is a five-year process, which is broken down into three phases (Table 3). While these plans are prepared by the DWQ, their implementation and the protection of water quality entail the coordinated efforts of many agencies, local governments and stakeholder groups in the state. The first cycle of plans was completed in 1998, but each plan is updated at five-year intervals.

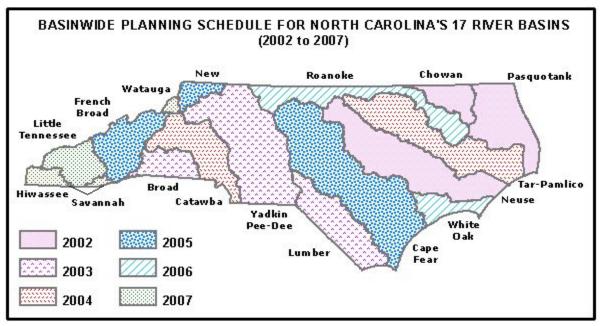


Figure 2 Basinwide Planning Schedule (2002 to 2007)

Goals of Basinwide Water Quality Planning

The goals of basinwide planning are to:

- Identify water quality problems and restore full use to Impaired waters.
- Identify and protect high value resource waters.
- Protect unimpaired waters yet allow for reasonable economic growth.

DWQ accomplishes these goals through the following objectives:

- Collaborate with other agencies to develop appropriate management strategies.
- Assure equitable distribution of waste assimilative capacity.
- Better evaluate cumulative effects of pollution.
- Improve public awareness and involvement.

Introduction xxxi

Table 2 Basinwide Planning Schedule (2000 to 2007)

Basin	DWQ Biological Data Collection	Draft for Public Review	Plan Receives EMC Approval	Begin NPDES Permit Issuance
Chowan	Summer 2000	5/2002	7/2002	11/2002
Pasquotank	Summer 2000	5/2002	7/2002	12/2002
Neuse	Summer 2000	5/2002	7/2002	1/2003
Broad	Summer 2000	11/2002	2/2003	7/2003
Yadkin-Pee Dee	Summer 2001	1/2003	3/2003	9/2003
Lumber	Summer 2001	9/2003	12/2003	7/2004
Tar-Pamlico	Summer 2002	12/2003	3/2004	9/2004
Catawba	Summer 2002	7/2004	9/2004	12/2004
French Broad	Summer 2002	2/2005	4/2005	9/2005
New	Summer 2003	7/2005	9/2005	3/2006
Cape Fear	Summer 2003	4/2005	8/2005	4/2006
Roanoke	Summer 2004	6/2006	10/2006	1/2007
White Oak	Summer 2004	9/2006	12/2006	6/2007
Savannah	Summer 2004	11/2006	2/2007	8/2007
Watauga	Summer 2004	12/2006	3/2007	9/2007
Hiwassee	Summer 2004	11/2006	2/2007	8/2007
Little Tennessee	Summer 2004	1/2007	4/2007	10/2007

Note: A basinwide plan was completed for all 17 basins during the first cycle (1993 to 1998). This schedule represents the second and/or third cycle for each.

Table 3 Five-Year Process for Development of an Individual Basinwide Plan

Years 1 – 2 Water Quality Data Collection and Identification of Goals and Issues	 Identify sampling needs Conduct biological monitoring activities Conduct special studies and other water quality sampling activities Coordinate with local stakeholders and other agencies to continue to implement goals within current basinwide plan
Years 2 – 3 Data Analysis and Public Input	 Gather and analyze data from sampling activities Develop use support ratings Conduct special studies and other water quality sampling activities Coordinate with local stakeholders and agencies to establish goals and objectives and identify and prioritize issues for the next basin cycle Develop preliminary pollution control strategies
Years 3 – 5 Preparation of Draft Basinwide Plan, Public Review, Approval of Plan, Issue NPDES Permits and Begin Implementation of Plan	 Develop draft basinwide plan based on water quality data, use support ratings, and recommended pollution control strategies Circulate draft basinwide plan for review and revise plan after public review period Submit plan to Environmental Management Commission for approval Issue NPDES permits Coordinate with other agencies and local interest groups to prioritize implementation actions Conduct special studies and other water quality sampling activities

Introduction xxxii

Benefits of Basinwide Water Quality Planning

Basinwide planning and management benefits water quality by:

- Focusing resources on one river basin at a time.
- *Using sound ecological planning and fostering comprehensive NPDES* permitting by working on a watershed scale.
- Ensuring better consistency and equitability by clearly defining the program's long-term goals and approaches regarding permits and water quality improvement strategies.
- Fostering public participation to increase involvement and awareness about water quality.
- *Integrating and coordinating programs and agencies* to improve implementation of point and nonpoint source pollution reduction strategies.

Division of Water Quality Functions and Locations

For more information on the above documents, DWQ activities or contacts, please visit http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/basinwide/ or call (919) 733-5083 and ask for the basin planner responsible for your basin of interest. Feel free to contact the appropriate Regional Office for additional information (Figure 3). For general questions about the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, contact the Customer Service Center at 1-877-623-6748.

How You Can Get Involved

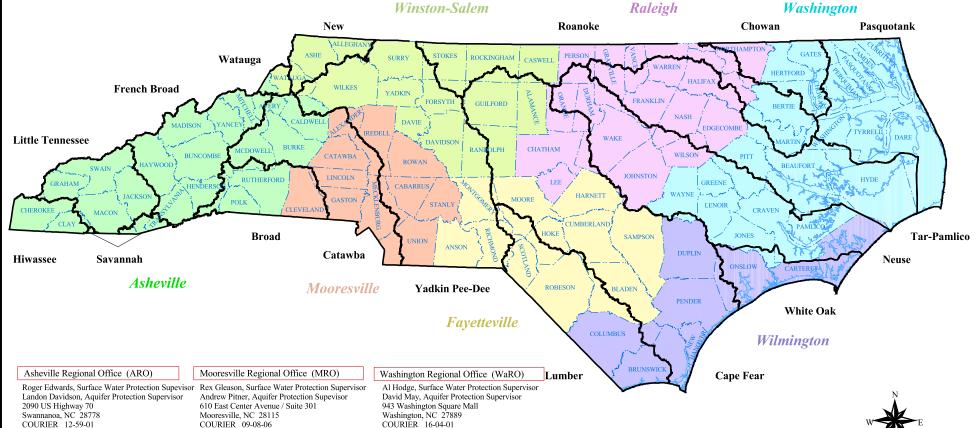
To assure that basinwide plans are accurately written and effectively implemented, it is important for citizens and local stakeholders to participate in all phases of the planning process. You may contact the basinwide planner responsible for your basin anytime during the plan's development. Upon request, the basin planner can also present water quality information and basin concerns to local stakeholder groups.

To make the plan more inclusive, DWQ is coordinating with the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), council of governments, NC Cooperative Extension Service, the county Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and stakeholder groups to develop language and identify water quality concerns throughout the basin. Citizens and local communities can also be involved during the planning process by contacting their county extension service or local SWCD.

During the public comment period, the draft plan is available online and by request for a period of at least 30 days. DWQ welcomes written comments and questions during this phase of the planning process and will incorporate comments and suggestions when appropriate.

Introduction xxxiii

Figure 3 North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources **Division of Water Quality Regional Offices**



Phone: (828) 296-4500 Fax: (828) 299-7043 Haywood

Avery Henderson Rutherford Buncombe Jackson Swain Burke Caldwell Macon Transylvania Cherokee Madison Yancey Clay McDowell Graham Mitchell

COURIER 09-08-06 Phone: (704) 663-1699

Alexander Lincoln Cabarrus Mecklenburg Catawba Rowan Cleveland Stanly Gaston Union Iredell

Fax: (704) 663-6040

Belinda Hinson, Surface Water Protection Supervisor Ken Schuster, Surface Water Supervisor Art Barnhardt, Aquifer Protection Supervisor 225 Green Street Suite 714 / Systel Building

Fayetteville Regional Office (FRO)

Polk

Fayetteville, NC 28301-5043 COURIER 14-56-25 Phone: (910) 486-1541 Fax: (910) 486-0707

Anson Moore Bladen Richmond Cumberland Robeson Harnett Sampson Hoke Scotland Montgomery

Raleigh Regional Office (RRO)

Jay Zimmerman, Aquifer Protection Supervisor 3800 Barrett Drive Raleigh, NC 27609 INTEROFFICE

Phone: (919) 571-4700 Fax: (919) 571-4718

Chatham Vance Johnston Durham Wake Lee Edgecombe Nash Warren Franklin Northampton Wilson Granville Orange Halifax Person

COURIER 16-04-01

Phone: (252) 946-6481 Fax: (252) 946-9215 Beaufort Gates

Pamlico Bertie Greene Pasquotank Hertford Perquimans Camden Chowan Hyde Pitt Craven Jones Tyrrell Currituck Lenoir Washington Dare Martin Wayne

Wilmington Regional Office (WiRO)

Ed Beck, Surface Water Protection Supervisor Charlie Stehman, Aquifer Protection Supervisor 127 Cardinal Drive Extension Wilmington, NC 28405-2845 COURIER 04-16-33 Phone: (910) 796-7215 Fax: (910) 350-2004

New Hanover Brunswick Carteret Onslow Columbus Pender Duplin

Winston-Salem Regional Office (WSRO)

Steve Tedder, Surface Water Protection Supervisor Sherri Knight, Aquifer Protection Supervisor 585 Waughtown Street Winston-Salem, NC 27107 COURIER 13-15-01 Phone: (336) 771-4600

Alamance Forsyth Watauga Guilford Alleghany Wilkes Ashe Randolph Yadkin Caswell Rockingham Davidson Stokes

Surry

Fax: (336) 771-4630

Davie

Central Office

DENR DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY WATER QUALITY SECTION 1617 MAIL SERVICE CENTER RALEIGH NC 27699-1617 COURIER 52-01-00 Phone: (919) 733-7015 Fax: (919) 733-2496



NC Division of Water Quality Basinwide Planning Program June 1, 2005

Other Reference Materials

There are several reference documents and websites that provide additional information about basinwide planning and the basin's water quality:

- A Citizen's Guide to Water Quality Management in North Carolina. August 2000. This document includes general information about water quality issues and programs to address these issues. It is intended to be an informational document on water quality. Visit the website at http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/basinwide/ to download document.
- Cape Fear River Basinwide Assessment Report. June 2004. This technical report presents physical, chemical and biological data collected in the Cape Fear River basin.
- Cape Fear River Basinwide Water Quality Management Plan. October 1996 and July 2000. These first basinwide plans for the Cape Fear River basin present water quality data, information and recommended management strategies for the first two five-year cycles.
- NC Division of Water Quality Environmental Sciences Branch website at http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/.
- North Carolina's Basinwide Approach to Water Quality Management: Program Description. Creager, C.S. and J.P. Baker. 1991. DWQ Water Quality Section. Raleigh, NC.
- Watershed Restoration Plan for the Cape Fear River Basin. July 2001. DWQ NC Wetlands Restoration Program.

How to Read the Basinwide Plan

Chapters 1 - 24: Subbasin and Watershed Information

• Summarizes information and data by subbasin, including: recommendations from previous basin plan, achievements, current priority issues and concerns, Impaired waters, and goals and recommendations for the next five years by subbasin.

Chapter 25 - 37

Presents information on various topics of interest to the protection and restoration of
water quality in the basin, including: stream classifications, population and land
cover changes, stressors to water quality, agricultural, forestry and permitting
activities in the basin, water and natural resources, and water quality initiatives.

Appendices

- Population and land use changes over time, local governments in the basin.
- Describes water quality data collected by DWQ, use support methodology and 303(d) listing methodology.
- Lists NPDES dischargers and individual stormwater permits.
- Points of contact and a glossary of terms and acronyms.

Introduction xxxv